

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps.

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

FROM THE TOP

Gen. Robert Foglesong
U.S. Air Forces in
Europe
commander



Giving Thanks

Remember our military family

By Gen. Robert. H. "Doc" Foglesong
U.S. Air Forces in Europe,
commander

Since the Pilgrims' original Thanksgiving celebration in the autumn of 1621, the hard work, sacrifices and continued vigilance of America's soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coast guardsmen have brought countless blessings to all Americans. The greatest among these are the freedom to pursue individual goals and the continuous opportunity for a better way of life.

Embodied with the American

See Thanks, page 10 —



Airman Desiree Hayden

Wait a minute, Mr. Postman

Airman 1st Class Paul Randel, 603rd Air Control Squadron, Airman 1st Class Melissa Jemison, postal clerk and Isreal Uruchurtu, postal clerk sort mail at the Aviano Post Office. The post office is operating on extended hours during the holiday season to accommodate the increase in business.

USAFE airmen applying courage, moving forward

By Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell
USAFE News Service

Using the words "proud" and "forward leaning," U.S. Air Forces in Europe's two key leaders said they are impressed by what they've seen throughout the command thus far.

USAFE's mission of being ready to fight, postured to respond and providing superior services to the command's world-class people is not only being met but is continually being expounded upon, said Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Gary G. Coleman, USAFE command chief master sergeant.

"In our base visits since taking command, one common thread is apparent; our airmen and civilian workforce - both at home base and deployed - are busy doing incredible work in support of the Global War

on Terrorism and fulfilling America's national security objectives," Foglesong said.

"Our military operations increasingly cross multiple theaters and unified commands," the general continued. "With more than 1,500 USAFE members deployed to expeditionary bases across the globe, and approximately 2,700 more Air Force professionals deployed to our European theater to support our home bases, it's apparent that we're a very busy, forward leaning and engaged command. Chief Coleman and I couldn't be more proud of the great work we've seen."

And this great work can not only be found in home base and contingency operations, but also in the increased services provided through the command's 12 newly rolled out combat and special interest programs, said Coleman. The programs were implemented to enhance and expand upon established programs that

See USAFE, page 3 —

Good to know

• During the last 26 days (Oct. 20 – Nov. 15) Aviano drivers were responsible for five DUIs. Because of these incidents the wing has directed implementation of RESCON "Delta." If the wing reduces its DUI and major vehicle accident numbers this weekend, it will be able to lower the RESCON level. Until the level is lowered all local establishments whose primary business is serving alcohol remain off limits. Units will conduct squadron-wide recalls for DUIs. Law enforcement will set up additional speed traps and checkpoints.

USAFE, from page 1

increase readiness, take care of our people and improve mission effectiveness.

"We're in the service business. It's imperative that the services we provide be world-class, just as our people are," said Coleman. "Whether it's improving services to each other or to our sister components and alliance partners, providing a top-notch product makes life easier and is one of the simplest ways we can take care of each other and our families."

"It's imperative that the services we provide be world-class, just as our people are."

- Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, USAFE command chief

These special interest initiatives are meant to aid USAFE members in professional and personal growth - spiritually, mentally and physically, said Foglesong. Some of the programs are already in afterburner, and all of them should be fully operational by May 2004.

"USAFE is already doing many great things - we're simply adding to and enhancing existing programs," he said. "We're committed to providing guidance

with latitude and resources in support of these programs, and the energy seen across the command to get these important initiatives going is awe inspiring."

Although most of the programs focus on year-round quality of life improvements within the command, one program is designed specifically for this time of year; when family separation, inclement weather and holiday finances all add up to make life stressful - especially for single airmen, said Foglesong.

"Project CHEER, which stands for Creating Hope, Energy, Enthusiasm and Recreation, is designed to create an environment of energy and enthusiasm for our single airmen, both enlisted



Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, U.S. Air Forces in Europe command chief, tours the Aviano Base Exchange with Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Gill, 31st Fighter Wing command chief, during an Aug. 26 visit to Aviano Air Base in which Chief Master Sgt. Coleman accompanied Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander.

and officers, during the sometimes difficult winter months," said the general. "Orchestrated through wing Project CHEER programs, USAFE members can expect to see a variety of non-traditional, high-energy events coming their way to improve morale, quality of life and mission readiness during the upcoming months.

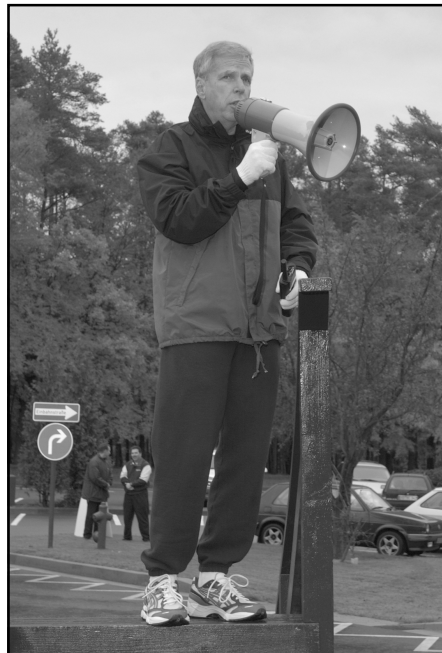
"The holiday season is a time for us to step back, take it easy and spend time with our families," Foglesong continued. "But it's also a time of year when we need to ensure we're taking care of each other, not only through programs like Project CHEER, but through simple human compassion and sincerity.

"We need to take care of our Air Force family," he said. "If you know someone who is going to be alone for the holidays, invite them to spend time with you and your family. And, if you see someone struggling, ask how you can help.

"There's no doubt that USAFE's people are its strength," he said. "Thanks for your hard work as we continue to embrace service as our hallmark. Bring your courage, be each other's wingman and let's keep the momentum rolling."

"The holiday season is a time for us to step back, take it easy and spend time with our families. But it's also a time of year when we need to ensure we're taking care of each other."

- Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander



Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, talks to the crowd before a warrior run Oct. 31st at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The run was part of Foglesong's new initiative, Combat Fitness, which aims at improving the fitness of airmen to meet the demands of a combat culture.

Airman Steve Czyz



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The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication.

Send all information to the *Vigileer* at vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Faxed articles will not be accepted at all by the staff. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The *Vigileer* staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

The public affairs staff reserves the right to edit all material in accordance with the Associated Press Stylebook.

Combat Nighthawk soars Aviano skies

By Airman 1st Class Jessica Switzer
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano Air Base began the U.S. Air Forces in Europe combat program "Combat Nighthawk" Nov. 3.

The Combat Nighthawk program is an effort to establish base supervision during evening hours and allow officers and senior noncommissioned officers the opportunity to broaden their experience base.

"The primary goal is professional development for our [company grade officers] and senior noncommissioned officers," said Maj. Ben Davis, co-point of contact for the Combat Nighthawk program.

"It offers the opportunities to experience new things outside of their specialties by performing nighthawk duties around the base with someone in a different specialty," said Davis.

Typical Combat Nighthawk shift hours are 6 p.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, but if the mission needs change, so do the hours.

The teams begin and end their shifts at the Wing Command Post. They are out and about during the evening and spend the

majority of the time observing base facilities and various wing and group organizations. Teams may visit any wing or group organization, but are encouraged to focus on unfamiliar areas, outside of their specialties.

The teams, one CGO and one Senior NCO from different specialties, visit a number of wing organizations and learn what they can about these after hours shops.

"I learned a lot about all the units that work at night and work after everyone else has gone home," said Master Sgt. Tracy Ankersen, 16th Air Force Judge Advocates Office.

Ankersen was paired with Capt. Jennifer Judd, 31st Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight, for her nighthawk duties Monday.

"Between the two of us we knew at least one person in each shop we visited, so I learned a lot more," Ankersen said.

While visiting the night shift shops Nighthawk teams also keep their eyes open for problems on the base.

"They are also the eyes and ears of the general during the night shift," he said. The team should be on the lookout for safety hazards and other things that may impact the health and welfare of Aviano's troops.



Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

Steady hands

Janeyra Salgado, wife of Staff Sgt. Benjamin Schaub, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, glues spacers to a poster before it's mounted on plexiglass. There are a number of services available at the Aviano Arts and Crafts Center.

The center is in Area Two, Bldg. 248. They are open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. The other shops are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Looking to spread your wings?

UFTB convenes at the personnel center March 2004

Air Force officials have accelerated the Undergraduate-Flying-Training selection board to March 2004 to accommodate pilot training requirements in May, June and July 2004.

The next board will convene at the Air Force Personnel Center March 2.

This selection board will review applications for pilots and navigators and officers with a date of birth after April 1, 1974 and a Total-Federal-Commissioned-Service to Date after April 1, 1999 will be eligible to apply for undergraduate flying training.

Applicants must send the completed application by Jan. 16, to Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. All applicants competing for pilot training must:

- Complete the basic attributes test.
- Physically certified qualified by Headquarters AETC/SGPS.
- Should possess a certified private pilot certificate (PPC)
- Should be eligible to move PCS to fill pilot training requirements starting in May 04.

The next UFT selection board will also to review applications for specialized-undergraduate-pilot training and specialized-undergraduate-navigator training for officers with a date of birth after April 1, 1974 and TFCSD after April 1, 1999 who meet all eligibility criteria the age/TAFCSO waiver request must be submitted through applicant's respective squadron commander, wing commander, NAF commander, and major command commander, with comments and recommendations from each endorser. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force is the final approval or disapproval authority.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe headquarters is the MAJCOM operator for processing age and TAFCSO waiver request packages through the USAFE commander.

A complete copy of the UFT application must accompany each request for age/TAFCSO waivers at USAFE level as well as: copies of the applicants' Officer Performance Reports, training reports and a disk containing proposed comments and endorsements.

Notify USAFE headquarters before submitting request because an increasing trend of officers were considered on a previous board and are not eligible for a waiver. By providing the member's name, USAFE representatives can further research the applicant's eligibility prior to staffing a package.

Servicemembers are asked to submit waiver packages to USAFE/DPAO no later than Dec. 12 to allow sufficient time for COMUSAFE and CSAF review.

Mail packages to: (Military) HQ USAFE/DPAO, Unit 3050, Box 25, APO AE 09094-5025. (Civilian) HQ USAFE/DPAO, Geb 525, Flugplatz, 66877 Ramstein-Miesenbach GE. (AFPC.)

RESCON CORNER

| | <u>DUIs</u> | <u>Major Vehicle Accidents</u> |
|---------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Week | 1 | 3 |
| 28 days | 6 | 11 |
| Year | TBD | |

1 : Injuries from accidents this week

6 : Traffic complaints this week

0 : Shoplifting incidents

A staff sergeant was stopped by the local Carabinieri at a traffic control checkpoint. He subsequently failed the breathalyzer and the administered Field Sobriety Tests. The staff sergeant thought he could drive home after a night at Boobe's.

A staff sergeant pulled his car out slightly to view around an obstruction. As he inched forward, he was struck by another vehicle.

A civilian exiting the traffic circle leading to the AP highway from Aviano Air Base attempted to merge in front of oncoming traffic. The oncoming technical sergeant couldn't stop in time and swerved to avoid hitting the civilian driver and struck the sidewalk.

A staff sergeant turned left without yielding to oncoming traffic and struck an approaching moped.



Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

In remembrance

Joint members of the Carabinieri and 31st Security Forces members pay respect here Tuesday to the 19 Italian military personnel lost during an attack at the Carabinieri military police base in Nassiriya, Iraq.

Sortie Board

| | 31st FW | | 510th FS | | 555th FS | |
|--------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Hours | Sorties | Hours | Sorties | Hours | Sorties |
| Goal | 708.4 | 460 | 372.5 | 231 | 335.9 | 229 |
| Ahead/ | | | | | | |
| Behind | +67.6 | +46 | -15 | +4 | +82.6 | +42 |

Contracting closure

The 31st Contracting Squadron will close from noon to 5 p.m. today for an official function. For emergency contracting business, call 335-6122906.

Job application training

A workshop from 10 a.m. to noon today at the family support center covers electronic resume application process using RESUMIX, electronic vacancy announcements, self-nomination and civilian announcement notification system (CANS). For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Employment opportunity

Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise is currently recruiting for a Family Advocacy Nurse to join the Family Advocacy staff at Aviano. The FAN is responsible for administering comprehensive clinical nursing prevention services to high-risk maternal child families to prevent child/spouse abuse. Applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree and a current U.S. license, community health, family maltreatment and maternal child experience. An excellent salary and benefit package is available. Those interested in the position, can submit their resume by Saturday to: Gene Wilkinson, DSN: 496-6667

New traffic provisions

Local Italian police are interpreting new provisions of the Italian Traffic Code as applicable to military members driving Allied-Forces-in-Europe-plated cars, including cover-plated vehicles with AFI driv-

ers' licenses. The new law states that whenever the operator of a motor vehicle registered abroad, or a vehicle registered in Italy but operated by the holder of a license issued by a non-European Union country violates a provision of the Italian Traffic Code resulting in the payment of a fine, the vehicle operator has two options: Pay the fine on the spot at a "reduced rate" or choose not to pay the fine, but provide a deposit to the police officer in the amount of half the maximum monetary fine established for the violation. The vehicle operator may then appeal the fine through proper channels. If the appeal is rejected, the total amount of the fine may be higher or lower than the amount deposited when the appeal was filed. If no payment is made by using either option, the registration papers will be withdrawn and the vehicle will be impounded until the fine is paid.

Book signing

Giampaolo Agostinelli is signing his new book "Vipers in the Sky," featuring U.S. Air Force F-16 squadrons, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the base exchange.

Grand opening extravaganza

The new club grand opening is 4:30 p.m. Monday with entertainment, food and prizes.

Legal office closure

The legal office is closed Wednesday from noon to 4:30 p.m. for an official function.

Dolomiti Thanksgiving dinner

Thanksgiving lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner is served from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday in the Dolomiti Dining Facility. Both meals are open to all. For more information, call Ext. 7297.

Holiday bazaar

There is a holiday bazaar from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 29 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 30 at the community center. Family portrait appointments are available as well as live Christmas trees for sale.

Contracting opportunities

The 31st Contracting Squadron is soliciting quotes for a catholic music director and protestant religious education coordinator. Those interested should call Staff Sgt. Gray at Ext. 7338 or write to ewa.gray@aviano.af.mil to obtain the necessary paperwork.

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers a Bachelor of Science in Technical Management where students learn how to apply specific management skills to their technical specialty if active-duty or a solid business foundation if civilian students. For more information call Ext. 5140

Health questionnaire

The base clinic has automated the health questionnaire to help cut down on the number of forms needed to complete for preventive-health assessments, optometry and dental appointments for active-duty personnel. Flyers and personnel-reliability-program personnel do not need to complete this form. The questionnaire is posted on: <https://sg.usafe.af.mil/chq/>. For more information, call Capt. Dunbar at Ext. 5419

Red Cross, California wildfires

Aviano members with relatives living in southern California who might be affected by the wildfires there may use the Aviano Red Cross to check their welfare. The Aviano Red Cross will dispatch an inquiry to the Red Cross chapter in California. The Red Cross will attempt to locate relatives, and send a reply regarding their whereabouts and welfare. Call Ext. 5576 for more information.

Holiday mailing deadlines

Parcel air packages must be sent by Dec. 4. Priority parcels and First Class Letters and cards must be mailed by Dec. 11. The deadline for mailing express mail is Dec. 18. Call the post office at Ext. 4086 for more information.

Post office hours for the holidays

The Aviano Main Post Office finance window opens 9 a.m. Mondays through Fridays through Dec. 19. The main post office finance window will extend hours each Thursday until 8 p.m. An additional finance

Reel Times

Today - 5 and 8 p.m. "Out of Time" PG-13

A small-town cop has an affair with a married woman, and he's convinced one criminal act can allow them to run away together. Starring: Denzel Washington and Dean Cain.

Saturday - 2 and 7 p.m. "Cabin Fever" R

Five friends escape to a remote log cabin when a stranger crashes their party. Starring: Jordan Ladd and James Debello

Sunday - 7 p.m. "Dick Roberts: Former Child Star" PG-13

A former child star is desperate to audition for a great role that could revitalize his career. Starring: David Spade, Mary McCormack

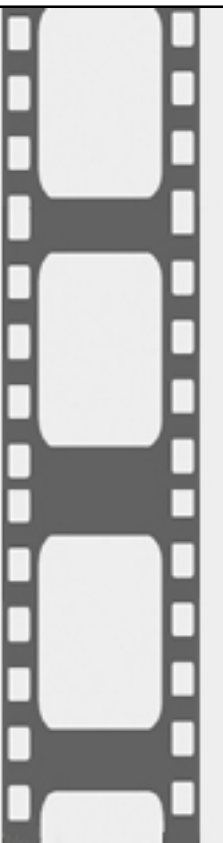
Monday, Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday - 7 p.m. "Out of Time" PG-13

Thursday - 7 p.m. "Dick Roberts: Former Child Star" PG-13

Nov. 21 - 5 and 8 p.m. "Mystic River" R

As the investigation of a murder of a 19-year old tightens around three friends, an ominous story unfolds that revolves around friendship, family and innocence lost too soon. Starring: Sean Penn and Kevin Bacon



window for mailing is open at the postal annex, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and only accepts cash and check transactions, no credit or debit cards are accepted. Call Ext. 4086 for more information.

Santa mail

Children of all ages are encouraged to send their wish list and their mailing address directly to Santa's home computer. Senders of wish lists received by Dec. 18 will receive a personalized postcard in the mail within two-to-three weeks from St. Nick himself. Children may also be able to view their names in a special section of the Stars and Stripes called "News from the North Pole." This section will be found in the Dec. 9, 16 and 22 editions of Stars and Stripes. All e-mail wish lists should be addressed to: santac@mail.estripes.osd.mil

FSC new program

The Aviano Family Support Center's new Family Life Education Program encourages individuals to discover ways to create and maintain a loving home through classes and referral on couples' communication, family development skills, parenting and related issues. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Emergency Data System for NOK

U.S. Air Force civilian employees may benefit from the same next-of-kin notification process provided to the families of injured or killed airmen by providing their emergency contact information on a secure electronic file, EMDS. Civilian members can access their record by logging on the AFPC secure web page at: <http://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/emds>.

Construction notice

Ongoing construction in front of the commissary is planned into the spring of 2004. Contractors are installing more effective and permanent force protection measures. Expect one-way traffic on the road directly in front of the BX/commissary during this time period. Pedestrian access to and from the BX/commissary will be provided at multiple points across the construction zone.

Tuesday play day

Come and join other parents with preschool age children, toddlers, and infants at Area D from 10:00 a.m. to noon Tuesdays. If the weather is nice, children can play outside. Otherwise, the group meets inside the lodge building.

Base service station

The base service station will have limited hours of operation until further notice because of damage to the base service station's computer. The base service station is for government-owned vehicles only.



Sponsor training

Sponsor training class is 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday to assist sponsors in helping newcomers start off right. The Aviano Family Support Center can bring the training to individual units. For more information call Ext. 5407.

Spouse's Benvenuti

The Spouse's Benvenuti meets from 8:30 a.m. to noon Dec. 1 to 3 at the Aviano Family Support Center. The class is geared toward family members, who wish to learn about Italy in a relaxed setting while meeting others. The class is not only for newcomers and includes a trip to a local market. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

PCS advice

Aviano members preparing to move or PCS soon can get help from the Aviano Family Support Center to gather important information about their new base. Base brochures, videos and loan center items for use while waiting for house hold goods shipment are available to check out. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Oil change and safety check

Spouses of Air Force members deployed more than 30 days are eligible to receive a free oil change and safety check for their primary vehicle. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Asilo assistance

The family support center has information about the Asilo, the Italian Pre-School. They can assist people who are planning to enroll their children with registration. For more information, call Ext. 5407

Italian marriage registration

The family support center can assist people with filing their marriage paperwork and setting up downtown appointments or translations. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Pre-deployment briefing

Those deploying soon who want to be proactive can call the family support center to sign up for a Pre-Deployment Briefing at 9 a.m. Wednesdays except for holidays, down days and base exercises. For more information, call Ext. 5407

Reunion briefing

Post deployment/in processing briefings are 10 a.m. Mondays at the family support center. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. The presentation can be arranged at the squadron level for entire units that are returning from deployment. For more information, call Ext. 5663.

1,2,3,4 Parents!

Learn how to establish routines, deal with temper tantrums, and generally, how to give your one-to-four year old the best start possible. The class meets for three-consecutive Tuesday sessions 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. starting Dec. 2. For more information or to register, call Ext. 5667.

Marriage building

Learn ways to create a more fulfilling marriage during three-consecutive Tuesday evening sessions 6 to 8 p.m., starting Dec. 2. For more information or to register, call Ext. 5667.

Tuesday play day

The Tuesday play day will change to Wednesdays starting in December. Join other parents with preschool age children, toddlers, and infants at Area D from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Children either play outside or meet inside the lodge building based on the weather.

Wee Ones Thursday

Parents with little ones ages 18-months and younger meet from 10:30 to noon Thursdays.

Commander's Connection

Brig. Gen. Mike Worden
31st Fighter Wing
commander



This is your direct link to let me know your comments or unresolved complaints. I will personally see each question is answered and select those of general interest to appear in the "Vigileer." All items may be edited for brevity and clarity. Comments can be submitted by: • E-mailing cc.connect@aviano.af.mil • faxing to Ext. 7083 • mail a letter to 31FW/PA, Unit 6140 Box 100, APOAE 09604-0100 or delivering to public affairs, Bldg. 1360, Room 19. You may remain anonymous upon request. However, to receive a reply, include your name, unit and phone number.

The Commander's Connection is not intended to replace the chain of command, so before contacting the Commander's Connection, talk with managers, supervisors or first sergeants.

Spouse Employment

Q: *I have an issue that deserves attention. For many years now, spouses (other than NATO/EU) have been forbidden to seek employment on military installations. I am being told this is because of the SOFA agreement and Italian labor rules (Unions). Right now, my wife who is Latvian cannot volunteer or even apply for employment, even though she is a legal U.S. resident. I'm sure you can understand the isolation*

she feels. This is a quality of life issue not only here, but Italy wide. I don't believe it is unreasonable that an American command-sponsored dependant should be able to work regardless of their nationality. Allowing these persons the same opportunities as the majority of dependent personnel is the right thing to do and has no impact on Italian job opportunities that already exist. The Italian labor unions have already carved out a percentage of positions that are Italian only.

A: Your frustration over the civilian employment system is understandable. Many factors make dependent employment difficult at Aviano. There are regulatory restrictions that apply when employing civilians that compound the lack of employment for some spouses. Title 5 of the United States Code (US law) requires that all appropriated fund civilian positions be occupied by U.S. citizens. The Civilian Personnel Flight also services Air Force local national positions in Italy. The Italian "Conditions of employment" (law) for LN positions stipulates that those positions be filled by Italians and strictly excludes citizens from other countries.

The non-appropriated fund human resource office can only employ U.S. citizens or Non-U.S. citizens if the applicant is a citizen of a NATO country (NATO SOFA agreement). Unfortunately, unless your spouse becomes a citizen of the U.S. or until Latvia becomes part of NATO next year, the laws preclude her paid employment at Aviano.

Nevertheless, your spouse should be able to volunteer—we have placed volunteers who are not citizens of NATO countries, and we can always use more able volunteers!

If you have further questions, feel free to contact our Volunteer Resources Manager, Vickie Jo Ryder at Ext. 5658 or the CPF, Randy Wieber at Ext. 7307.

Small group contributes much

By Col. Steven Carey
Director of Operations and
Intelligence, 16th Air Force

The likelihood that a group of 100 people might go unnoticed at a base the size of Aviano is understandable. So it's not surprising if many airmen, driving past our compound as they come and go from the flightline, might wonder what, exactly, the people at Headquarters 16th Air Force do.

Our mission as a Numbered Air Force staff is two-fold.

First, we help US Air Forces in Europe organize, train and equip our people at Aviano, Incirlik, and more than a dozen other operating locations throughout our area of responsibility, which includes most of Southern Europe, Northern Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Levant.

Second, we provide a responsive warfighting capability by being ready to form the core of a Joint or Combined Forces Air Component Commander's staff, which coordinates all air and space operations in theater, or a forward Air Force Forces staff, which helps deploy, bed down and sustain U.S. Air Force people, aircraft and equipment.

Since our drawdown from major combat operations in Iraqi six months ago, here are just a few examples of some of the things we've been doing for you and for America's Air Force:

Three members of our staff deployed as

part of Joint Task Force Liberia, which supported the Economic Community of West African States' military arm, ECOMIL, in its efforts to stabilize the capital city of Monrovia and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian relief to the Liberian people. Lt. Col. Paul LaPorta served as deputy director of the Air Component Coordination Element, coordinating airlift in and out of West Africa, and Captains Michael Gravier and Helen Newell served as logistics planners for the Joint Planning Group.

Our Air Reserve Component advisor, Col. William Gardner, deployed as the AFFOR commander for RESCUER/MEDCEUR 03, a U.S. European Command exercise that provided search and rescue training, medical training, medical clinic renovations and free eyeglasses or cataract surgery benefiting thousands of people in the country of Georgia.

We deployed a total of seven people to the AFFOR and Combined Air Operation Center staffs for NATO exercise Cooperative Key 03: Majors Parrish Galloway, Dave Gundersen and Drexel Sherman; 1st Lt. Marsey Justice; Tech Sgt. Lori Miller; and Staff Sergeants Sonya Martin and April Martinez.

And, the next time you drive by our building, remember there are 100 dedicated professionals inside who are committed to doing whatever it takes to make us the most respected, all-purpose air and space expeditionary force in the world.

Thanks, from page 1 —

spirit of compassion, tolerance and progress, the men and women of America's armed forces continue to protect and preserve our nation's abundant blessings - providing the gift of peace and hope to all who live under our protective wings and the promise of a secure future for others.

This Thanksgiving, as we take the time to celebrate our blessings with family and friends, take a moment to remember our fellow "brothers and sisters" who are deployed to ensure those same freedoms in Afghanistan and Iraq - preserving and defending our freedoms away from their families.

Also take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices, support and blessings of our nation's often unsung heroes - our military spouses, sons and daughters - whose support is crucial in upholding the principles we cherish.

To all of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe team - active duty, guard, reserve, civilians, contractors and family members - thanks for all you do. Your courage and unwavering dedication are a true blessing to us all. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

The Passenger

Unexpected delay brings war close to home

By Staff Sgt. Jeramie Brown
Detachment 4, Air Force News Agency
Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Like most Americans, I find that I am pretty selfish sometimes. I learned just how selfish on a recent trip to Iraq. I was sitting on a C-130 Hercules waiting to leave a location I can't spell or pronounce, when we got delayed. I was annoyed. I'd been traveling for hours trying to get to my destination and here we were, stuck in some out-of-the-way place and I was hot, tired and ready to get there already. Then it happened. I found out we were waiting on another passenger.

I didn't know his name. I say 'his' but I didn't know if he was actually a he or a she. I didn't know what branch of service he was in or what rank he was. All I knew was that this passenger cost me another hour and a half on that plane.

Little did I know how profound an impact "The Passenger" would have on me. You see, this passenger that we had to wait on, who delayed our trip and annoyed me and the other passengers, was a casualty of war.

The ground crew brought him on board in a body bag. They laid him down between the jump seats and the cargo pallet, and covered him with Old Glory. At that moment, I felt the heat of shame in my face. Who was I to worry about a little lost sleep or a few extra hours on a plane when he had given his life in this war?

By this time, everyone on board had stood up out of respect and, when they had The Passenger secure, the sergeant leading the crew called the plane to attention and barked a quick command. Every man and woman on that plane, from private to colonel immediately snapped a crisp salute in honor of the ultimate sacrifice made by The

Passenger. It was a moment of perfect unity. Every eye on that flag, every arm raised in respect, every breath caught in every throat for just one second.

With our respects paid, everyone took his or her seat and prepared for take-off. I don't know about anyone else on that plane but I found myself contemplating what this passenger's sacrifice meant: to me, to our country, but mostly to his family. I found myself wondering what he gave up for the war on terror. Did he leave a wife behind when he deployed? Did he have children out there somewhere who would never see their father again? What about his parents, brothers and sisters? How would his family cope with his death?

Was the sacrifice he made for his country worth it? To his family, perhaps not. To the Iraqi families, maybe.

You see, I learned something else on this trip. I learned how the Iraqi people are living. Ramshackle houses ... no cars ... no central air, or any air conditioning for that matter, none of the so called "modern conveniences." I also learned that, thanks to our efforts, some of the kids are now able to go to school for the first time in years. Teachers are allowed to teach in multiple languages and cover subjects that were banned during the old regime.

Clinics are opening all over the country, doctors are no longer afraid that if they misdiagnose someone it will cost them their lives. That's right, there is no malpractice insurance in Iraq. A doctor at one of the clinics told me that, under the old regime, if a doctor made a mistake, he paid for it with his life. So was The Passenger's sacrifice worth it? I guess it depends on your point of view.

Then I started thinking about my own family. How would my wife deal with my death if it came on this trip? Would my

children be ok? How horrible would it be for my parents to outlive me? I thought of my brother and his family in California. How many times have I meant to call them only to get distracted and forget? I haven't seen them in almost four years. My sister in Illinois hasn't seen me in a couple of years either. When was the last time I called her? Why haven't I e-mailed her or my niece lately? I use to send her e-mails every week or so, but I seem to have let my oh-so-busy life get in the way of communicating with the ones I love. Do I write enough? Call enough? Definitely not. I think that's what it all comes down to.

We get so wrapped up in our lives that we forget about the other people in this world. We forget that not everyone lives in a free society. We forget that sometimes you have to stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves. We forget that we have a responsibility to the people of this world, and not because we are a super power or have the best military in the world, but simply because we all share this planet. We forget that, for good or bad, what one person does affects everyone.

What we can't forget is that we never know when the moment of our death will come. Don't forget to tell the people who are most important to you how much you love them and how much you miss them. Don't forget to take time out of your 'busy' schedule and call your family and friends.

So to The Passenger, I say thank you. Thank you for standing up for people who can't stand up for themselves. Thank you for making the ultimate sacrifice. Most importantly, thank you for making me realize that our time on this earth is never certain and we'd better do our best to make it worthwhile. May you find peace and happiness wherever you may be.

Kudos

Congratulations to the following Aviano airmen for their recent supplemental selection for promotion to staff or technical sergeant:

- **Christopher Paloschi**, 31st Communications Squadron
- **Brandy Tomlinson**, 31st Operations Support Squadron
- **Adrian Sdano**, 31st Maintenance Operations Squadron
- **Stephanie Werner**, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron
- **Jaeson Wight**, 31st CES
- **Robert Rannacher**, 725th Air Mobility Operations Group
- **Kimberly Church**, 510th Fighter Squadron
- **Jalana Watts**, 31st Communications Squadron
- **Robert Sabarese**, 831st Munitions Squadron

"November 6 was a busy day at Aviano High School. We had over 100 presenters available to talk with students about the options available to them for their futures. Each student attended seven of 19 informational sessions to include careers, college, military, and local employers. Students were able to ask the panel of professionals about their experiences and learn first-hand what

a career in the military, with a certain employer, or in a particular field had been like for the presenters. Additionally, they had an opportunity to speak with college reps about two and four-year colleges, local colleges, and get information about state residency requirements, and financial aid. Parents also were invited to attend. We would like to thank the more than 100 volunteers that helped to set up, present, or clean up. Furthermore, many people worked behind-the-scenes to bring such an extraordinary event together for our students. Special thanks to **Erin Madory, Vicki Jo Ryder, Dave Poulin, Kristina Purpura, Ashley Soto, Odessa Mangosing, Lacey Ranson, Sarah Redden, Jimmie Jeffcoat, Lynne LaCorte, Ron Engbrecht, Trudy DeAngelis, Anna Nelson, and Joshua Hawkins** for their assistance in planning and coordination. Thanks also to the **Officer's and Civilian's Spouses Club** and **Aviano Thrift Shop** for monetary donations that funded the Future Fair."

- Cheryl Owen,
Aviano High School



U.S. Air Forces in Europe



U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander, Gen. Robert Foglesong, implemented the following combat and special-interest programs USAFE wide:

COMBAT PROGRAMS

Combat Education

Making advanced education as user-friendly as possible

Combat Flightline

Ensuring the best people and right resources are applied to our flying operations

Combat Touch

Focusing on the spiritual needs and well-being of our airmen and their families

Combat Intro/Exit

Streamline base inprocessing and outprocessing procedures

Combat Fitness

Improving the fitness of our airmen to meet the demands of our combat culture

Combat Nighthawk

Providing leadership/career-broadening opportunities to our officers/airmen

Combat Proud

Improving the appearance of our bases to foster pride and productivity

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

Hidden Heroes

Recognizing people and programs that make a difference

Project CHEER

Creating an environment of energy and enthusiasm for our airmen

Customer College

Educating our people on how to best take care of their customers

Project Wizard

Increasing the opportunities to study and explore through libraries



Surgeon general says

Since 1871, the Surgeon General of the United States has been the nation's leading spokesman on matters of public health.

Seventeen men and women have served in this important position. Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., was sworn in as surgeon general August 2002.

The surgeon general is appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of The United States Senate for a 4-year term of office. In carrying out all responsibilities, the surgeon general reports to the assistant secretary for health, who is the principal advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on public health and scientific issues.

Since the release of the first surgeon general's report on smoking and health in the United States in 1964, about 10-million people have died from smoking-related diseases in the United States — heart disease, lung cancer, emphysema, and other respiratory diseases.

- If current smoking patterns continue, an estimated 25-million Americans will die prematurely from a smoking-related illness, including an estimated 5-million people who are now children and adolescents under the age of 18.

- There is clear scientific evidence that cigar smoking represents a significant health risk and is not a safe alternative to cigarette smoking. Cigar use has been linked to oral, esophageal, laryngeal, and lung cancer. Regular cigar smokers who inhale, particularly those who smoke several cigars per day, have an increased risk for coronary heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. (*Information from surgeon general's website and Center for Disease Control website*)

Kicking the habit

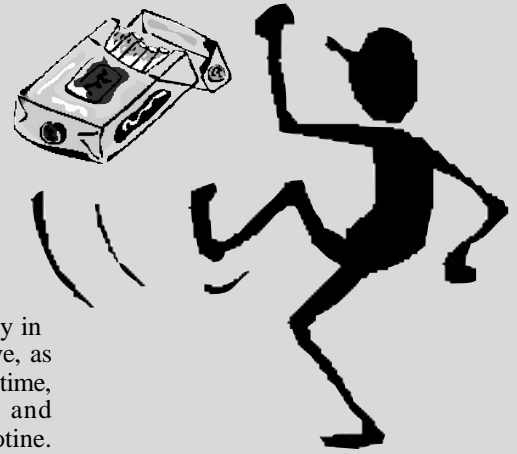
Why is it so hard to quit smoking?

Nicotine is a drug found naturally in tobacco. Nicotine is highly addictive, as addictive as heroin and cocaine. Over time, the body becomes physically and psychologically dependent on nicotine. Studies show that smokers must overcome both of these to be successful at quitting and staying quit.

Nicotine affects many parts of the body, including the heart and blood vessels, the hormonal system, the body's metabolism, and the brain. Nicotine produces pleasurable feelings that make smokers want to smoke more and also acts as a depressant by interfering with the flow of information between nerve cells. As the nervous system adapts to nicotine, smokers tend to increase the number of cigarettes they smoke, and hence the amount of nicotine in their blood. After a while, the smoker develops a tolerance to the drug, which leads to an increase in smoking over time. Eventually, the smoker reaches a certain nicotine level and then smokes to maintain this level of nicotine.

In addition to nicotine dependence, most people have psychological reasons for smoking. Cigarette use has become automatic, a habit. People have learned to use cigarettes to cope with certain situations, or have "invested" special meaning in their cigarettes. Most smokers are familiar with the habit aspect of smoking. They are very likely to smoke in certain situations or during certain activities. For example, when driving a car, talking on the telephone, drinking a cup of coffee, etc. Under these circumstances, the person may not consciously think about smoking or even remember lighting the cigarette.

For others, cigarettes are used to help cope with stress or to deal with uncomfortable situations. Some people feel that smoking relaxes them, so they have a cigarette when they feel tense. Others



Prepare yourself to quit

- Decide positively that you want to quit. Try to avoid negative thoughts about how difficult it might be.

- List all the reasons you want to quit. Every night before going to bed, repeat one of the reasons 10 times.

- Develop strong personal reasons in addition to your health and obligations to others. For example, think of all the time you waste taking cigarette breaks, rushing out to buy a pack, hunting for a light, etc.

- Begin to condition yourself physically: Start a modest exercise program; drink more fluids; get plenty of rest; and avoid fatigue.

- Set a target date for quitting - perhaps a special day such as your birthday, your anniversary, or the Great American Smokeout. Make the date sacred, and don't let anything change it. This will make it easy for you to keep track of the day you became a nonsmoker and to celebrate that date every year. (*Information courtesy of www.hoptechno.com/book43.htm*)

smoke when they are happy or having fun. Loneliness, boredom, and frustration are also reasons why people use cigarettes. For these people cigarettes have become a "friend". They may feel sad or frightened at the thought of losing that reliable, comforting friend.

Those interested in quitting smoking can contact the Aviano Health and Wellness Center at Ext. 4573. (*American Cancer Society and the Aviano Health and Wellness Center*)

Having trouble quitting? Try using these tips to kick butt

Make it unpleasant

- Smoke only under circumstances that aren't especially pleasurable for you. If you like to smoke with others, smoke alone. Turn your chair toward an empty corner and focus only on the cigarette you are smoking and its many negative

effects.

- Collect all your cigarette butts in one large glass container as a visual reminder of the filth smoking represents.

Make it inconvenient

- Stop buying cigarettes by the carton. Wait until one pack is empty before you buy another.

- Stop carrying cigarettes with you at home and at work. Make them difficult to get to.

Don't "auto smoke"

- Smoke only those cigarettes you really want. Catch yourself before you light up a cigarette out of pure habit.

- Don't empty your ashtrays. This will remind you of how

many cigarettes you've smoked each day, and the sight and smell of stale butts will be very unpleasant.

- Cutting down can help you quit, but it's not a substitute for quitting. (*Information courtesy of www.hoptechno.com/book43.htm*)

DODDS helps parents plan PCS with release dates

During the school year, many families begin to make plans for pending permanent changes of station as well as family vacations.

Department of Defense Dependent Schools has policies and procedures for both events to assist parents in placing school attendance high on the agenda when making transition and vacation plans.

DoDDS Europe supports family vacations throughout the school year that provide culturally enriching experiences for children. Principals have the authority to grant excused absences from school to support trips. We ask that parents coordinate with schools in advance to arrange make-up work and to discuss the timing and any conflicts that may impact negatively on a student's success (standardized testing, finals, special events). The family vacation policy is not designed to accommodate early departures from school at the end of the semester or year.

Some families need assistance when a PCS comes prior to the end of the semester or school year. Principals have been asked to provide clear guidance on the DoDDS policy for early withdrawal of students.

The provision for permitting the early withdrawal of students with full credit was based on careful consideration of the unique circumstances found in the DoDDS system. It recognizes that due to the military necessity, families are occasionally required to move prior to the end of the school year and that children should not be penalized

for this. The 20-day limit provides reasonable flexibility without compromising academic standards or placing the student in an untenable position in regards to mastery of curriculum content.

For School Year 2003-04, the following early withdrawal dates have been established:

Semester 1:

Students must attend school all day Dec.10.

Earliest departure is close of business Dec. 10.

Semester 2:

Students must attend school all day May 12

Earliest departure is close of business May 12

This provision has never been intended to apply to, or be extended for, the convenience of family travel, visits or other discretionary reasons. The policy therefore requires students present verification of the date of their sponsor's departure, i.e., PCS or other official orders, to school officials in order to receive consideration for full academic credit. Students who withdraw prior to the 20-day limit receive a "withdrawal" grade rather than a final grade.

It is incumbent upon all of us to carefully consider educational impact when making transition or vacation plans for our families. The support and cooperation of parents in this regard is critical to student success.

For more information parents can contact their school registrar. (*Aviano School Liaison Office*)

Trouble in school: parents should get involved

Parents should be concerned when they feel their child may need help in school. The child could be experiencing some of the following behaviors at school and/or at home:

- Difficulty staying on task
- Persistent problems following directions
- Frequent outbursts for no apparent reason
- Difficulty in understanding what is read
- Difficulty expressing ideas in spoken or written form
- Difficulty solving math problems
- Experiencing complex medical problems
- Inability to talk as well as children you know of the same age
- Demonstrating little interest in toys or

stories for children of the same age

- Demonstrating puzzling behaviors
- Inability to play with other children

Parents can contact the child's teacher or guidance counselor regarding concerns. An informal conference can be arranged. During this conference, the teacher and other involved school personnel will work as partners to develop ideas, strategies, and interventions that may help the learning process both at home and at school.

During the period of interventions or strategies, if recommended, parents may be asked to observe their child at home, provide knowledge about his or her development, the parent's expectations at home and understanding how the child learns can all

be important contributions.

Specific school programs such as; Reading Recovery (first grade only), compensatory education, English as a Second Language, Project Learn (after school tutoring) or the Student Support Team may also be recommended.

During the period of interventions school personnel should meet with parents to discuss the child's progress. If the problem continues, the school may try additional interventions or decide on a referral to special education. Department of Defense Dependent Schools encourages all parents to work closely with the school to ensure parents and children experience school success. (*Aviano School Liaison Office*)



Airman Desiree Hayden

Protesters at a local demonstration exercise their rights.

Protests and demonstrations allow Aviano members to...

Practice situational awareness

If you find yourself driving through a protest, here are a few tips which will help you take control of the situation around you:

- Keep your vehicle well maintained and your gas tank at least half full
- Lock your doors and raise all windows; do not accept flyers or pamphlets.
- Be patient and remain calm.
- Pay attention to other vehicles around you and turn your radio down.
- Move on as quickly and safely as possible; drive around obstacles or protestors who may be legally blocking your lane.
- Allow room for evasive action but don't overreact
- Never take any action to force a confrontation
- Carry a cell phone and know local emergency numbers
- Immediately report all suspicious incidents to Security Forces or AFOSI. (*Courtesy of 31st Security Forces Squadron and Det. 531 Office of Special Investigations*)

A weekend getaway to Salzburg, Austria might sound like a great way to relax; it's also a great way to set sights on a squadron's future, as senior leadership in the 31st Operations Support Squadron found out recently. The squadron conducted an "offsite" meeting in the city home to Mozart's birthplace and *The Sound of Music* legacy.

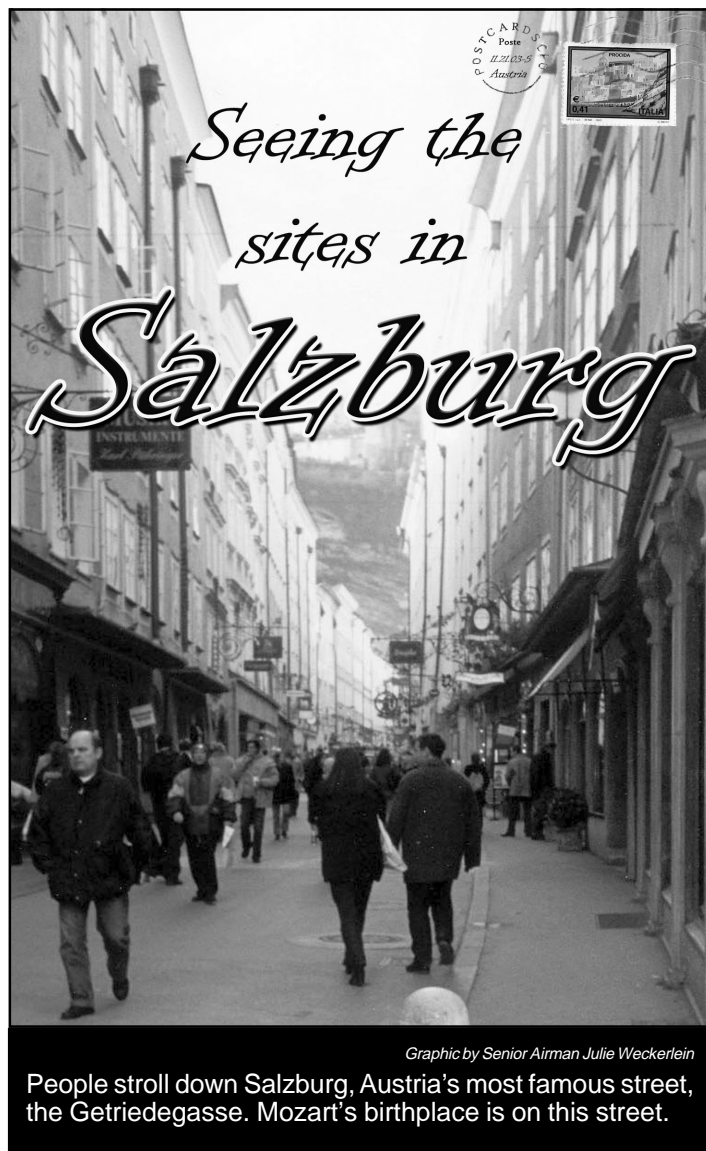
"It allowed us to review our squadron vision and goals, and give ourselves a "how are we doing" check. We wanted to get away from the local area and take our families with us," said Maj. William Crowe.

In the quiet middle of it all The off-site was conducted in a hotel in downtown Salzburg. The historic city provided the perfect calm and quiet environment needed for the airmen. "The advantage to getting away from the office is the normal distractions are removed. No phone calls, e-mails, walk-ins on your meeting. Just eight folks talking about how we've done as a squadron, what we need to focus on the future and establishing goals," said Crowe.

Natural attractions Salzburg proved a great choice for a family off-site with its numerous attractions. One such draw was the city's Haus der Natur, or the natural history museum, located downtown. "That's where a lot of guys took the kids once the off-site meetings were over," said Crowe. The museum boasts a 36-tank aquarium, considered to be one of the most beautiful in central Europe. Another museum highlight is the reptile house with more than 200 animals in 56 terrariums.

Money and Mozart According to Crowe, a number of people who attended the off-site took advantage of the great shopping in Salzburg, mostly along Getriedegasse, the main street running through the city. The citizens work hard to keep the street as similar as possible to how it looked in years past. Most of the shops signs, including the one for the local McDonalds, stays true to the type of signs one would have seen generations ago. Another major attraction on the street is the birthplace of composer Wolfgang Amedaues Mozart. Family heirlooms and other Mozart memorabilia is on display in the third-story apartment that was home to the Mozarts for about 26 years.

Sound of Music and the fortress Yet another attraction is the "on-location" locations where scenes from the popular 1960s movie were filmed. Numerous walking tours are offered to showcase those sites. Visiting the 11th-century Fortress Hohensalzburg also provides a great view overlooking the city. It's one of Europe's



Graphic by Senior Airman Julie Weckerlein
People stroll down Salzburg, Austria's most famous street, the Getriedegasse. Mozart's birthplace is on this street.

largest existing castles and was never captured by an enemy. An Information, Tickets and Travel trip to Salzburg is scheduled for Nov. 29. See below for information.

Aviano members can share their travel experiences through *Postcards*. Simply send an email to vigileer@aviano.af.mil, telling us about where you've been, what you did and what you loved about it. To submit a postcard, send a trip photo along with an email describing your trip.

Information, Tickets, Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Pisa and Vinci - Saturday
- Gorizia Elegant Medieval Dinner (in a castle, which includes jesters and sword fights) - Saturday
- Thanksgiving weekend in Barcelona, Spain and French Riviera Express - Thursday to Nov. 30
- Merano Christmas market and guided tour of Trento - Nov. 29
- Salzburg Christmas market - Nov. 29
- Trieste Castles and Cave - Nov. 29 and Dec. 6
- Bolzano Christmas market and iceman - Dec. 6

For more information, call Exts. 5072 or 5026.

Fast facts

- All gondolas in Venice are black because of a law passed in 1562 to prevent people from wasting money on paint and decoration.
- Christopher Columbus, the famous explorer from Genoa, died thinking he had reached Asia, not America.
- Pizza Margherita was named after Italian King Umberto I's queen.
- Guglielmo Marconi was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 1909 for his work on wireless telegraphy.
- Italy is famous for its sports cars (Ferrari, Lamborghini) and for the Vespa motor scooter. (*Facts from www.worldinfozone.com*)

